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May 1, 2023

A Personal Invitation to Annual Meeting from the Conference Minister

by Rev. Kim Wood, Conference Minister

The final countdown has begun. We are just one month away from the **57th Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference**, United Church of Christ! And I personally invite you to mark your calendars for Friday, June 1 and Saturday, June 2, 2023 and then to go secucc.org and click on the [Annual Meeting box](#), or go to this link to register:

<https://southeastconferenceunitedchurchofchrist-bloom.kindful.com/e/imagine-renewing-church-self-annual-meeting-2023>

This year's Annual Meeting will be held in Atlanta, GA at Kirkwood United Church of Christ. The Kirkwood neighborhood is located east of downtown Atlanta, with great road and public transportation (MARTA) access. Kirkwood is home to numerous shops and restaurants, including the historic Pullman Yards, which has been newly renovated as an entertainment and event venue.



The Southeast Conference Annual Meeting is more than just a meeting. In addition to our plenary sessions, you will experience great worship, attend interesting and pertinent workshops, hear inspirational speakers, visit a variety of vendors and ministry partners, see familiar faces, and meet new people from across the Southeast Conference. I'm excited that our keynote speaker for this year is author, liturgist, and poet **Cole Arthur Riley**, whose New York Times bestselling book, [*This Here Flesh: Spirituality, Liberation, and the Stories that Make Us*](#) came out in 2022 (available online and at Annual Meeting). I'm also delighted that **Rev. Dr. Teresa L. Fry Brown**, Bandy

Professor of Preaching and Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at the Candler School of Theology, Emory University, will be our guest preacher.

Annual Meeting is our time to be together! From Clinton, MS to Charleston, SC, and from Nashville, TN to Mobile, AL and Beachton, GA, we gather to celebrate our shared and very necessary ministry as the United Church of Christ in the South and to be inspired by God's call that moves us forward. This is our second year to provide a hybrid event, which you have the option of attending onsite or online. I'm looking forward to spending time with those of you who are onsite in Atlanta in just a few short weeks and also to gathering with those of you who attend virtually. Together, we are the Southeast Conference – all of the participants and all of the clergy of every UCC congregation and ministry setting in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Tennessee (except for Memphis). Join me (on-site or virtually) in Atlanta on June 1 and 2. Please register today!

Note: Room blocks will be ending by Friday, May 5, 2023. If you require lodging, please reserve your room today! The registration link above includes the necessary information.

REGISTER FOR ANNUAL MEETING

Option to Attend only the Keynote Lecture

Can't Make it to Annual Meeting but are interested in hearing our Keynote Lecture? You are in luck! This year we have the opportunity to open our Keynote Lecture to a larger crowd. You are invited to join us on-site or online on Saturday, June 3, at 10:30 a.m. for our **Keynote with Cole Arthur Riley**. Tickets are \$20.



Please note: if you are attending all of Annual Meeting, you do not need to purchase a ticket to the keynote, as it's included in your registration. If you are interested in gathering a group at your church to join online together, please email Heather at hfosburgh@secucc.org.

REGISTER FOR KEYNOTE ONLY

News from the Conference Office



Clockwise from upper left: Virginia Highland's 100th Anniversary kickoff (2 photos); Paul Eknes-Tucker at Pilgrim Birmingham; Kim at Church of the Savior Knoxville; Kim at Howard Congregational Nashville with Pastor Ralph Thompson and Rev. Beverly Ross (Brookmeade Congregational); Kim at UC Huntsville with Rev. Brian Byrne and Ivy Tillman

Where's the Conference Staff?

You've heard of "Where's Waldo?" We thought it would be fun for you hear more about our Southeast Conference staff's previous and upcoming visits and adventures. Maybe you'll find yourself in the area and will take some time to "find" us.

Last Month

- April 2 – Conference Minister Rev. Kim Wood brought the Palm Sunday message to **United Church of Huntsville**, where Rev. Brian Byrne serves as pastor.
- April 16 – Rev. Wood worshiped with **Howard Congregational Church** in Nashville, TN, where she shared the sermon for the day. Pastor Ralph Thompson serves as minister. Rev. Fosburgh worshiped at the **Methodist Congregational Federated Church** in Demorest, GA. Rev. Joyce Acree is the pastor.

- April 17-19 – Rev. Wood participated in the **Tennessee Moral Monday March** and was present in the Tennessee House Chamber's gallery advocating for gun safety legislation.
- April 21-22 – Rev. Fosburgh was at the **Alliance of Baptist's Annual Gathering** in Atlanta, GA as an ecumenical partner.
- April 22 – Rev. Fosburgh and Min. Moss celebrated the start of the 100th Anniversary Celebration at **Virginia Highland Church** in Atlanta with an evening of music and celebration.
- April 23 – Rev. Wood was the preacher of the day at **Church of the Savior UCC** in Knoxville, GA, where Rev. John Gill serves as Pastor and Rev. Tonya Barnett serves as Associate Pastor. Rev. Fosburgh worshiped with **Virginia Highland Church** where Rev. Matt Laney is the Pastor. Rev. Dr. Kenneth Samuel of **Victory for the World Church** in Decatur was the guest preacher as part of Virginia Highland Church's 100th Anniversary Celebration.
- April 30 – Rev. Wood worshiped with **Pilgrim Church, UCC**, where Rev. Paul Eknes-Tucker is the pastor. She then shared the message at **Covenant Community Church**, where Rev. J.R. Finney serves as pastor. Both congregations are located at the United Church House in Birmingham, AL. Rev. Fosburgh preached at **Pilgrimage UCC** in Marietta, GA where Rev. Courtney Jones is the pastor. She then participated in the Installation of Rev. Laura Robinson as pastor of **Peace Church** in Clemson, GA

Looking Ahead

- May 4-7 – Rev. Kim Wood will be at **Back Bay Mission** in Biloxi, MS for the Making Good Trouble Conference and 100th Anniversary Celebration.
- May 7 – Rev. Fosburgh will be celebrating the Installation of Rev. Joylynn Graham as pastor of **Pleasant Hill Community Church** in Pleasant Hill, TN.
- May 21-23 – Rev. Wood will be at the **South Central Conference's Annual Meeting** at Cathedral of Hope UCC in Dallas, TX.
- June 1-2 – **Southeast Conference Annual Meeting** at **Kirkwood UCC** in Atlanta, GA. We'll ALL be there and hope to see you, too!
- June 30-July 4 – Revs. Wood and Fosburgh will be with the Southeast Conference Delegation at **34th UCC General Synod** in Indianapolis, IN.

From the Generosity Coordinator

This month we will focus on our giving initiatives. We are working on releasing our Stewardship Campaign (Details to follow). We remain focused on our OCWM projects.

Generosity involves giving to others not simply anything in abundance but rather giving those things that are good for others. Generosity always intends to enhance the true well-being of those to whom it is given.



Our Churches Wider Mission makes it possible to live out the vision of the United Church of Christ: United in Christ's love, A JUST WORLD FOR ALL!

Nearly 1,590 UCC Churches fully support OCWM. Please continue to contribute to all of our special offerings. We are one church-A United and uniting church and we appreciate ALL that you do in support of the UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST. Thank you.

You will be receiving information, Steps to Start a Planned Giving Program. These steps will be helpful to you as we prepare for our Stewardship Campaign.

I look forward to working with each Church in our Conference. Please feel free to invite me to your Church. I would love to do a brief presentation that will help you in all of your financial endeavors.

Please call, text or email me should you have questions or concerns.

Again, THANK you for all the ways you support this Southeast Conference United church of Christ. You are appreciated!!

Blessings, as we continue to Journey...
Min. Carrole

Installation of Rev. Joylynn Graham at Pleasant Hill Community Church

The Commission on Ministry of the Southeast Conference and Pleasant Hill Community Church invites you to the installation of Rev. Joylynn Graham at 2pm Central on May 7th at Pleasant Hill Community Church. All clergy are invited to wear robes and red stoles for the service.

Ecclesiastical Council of Candace Rowell

The Southeast Conference Commission on Ministry invites you to the Ecclesiastical Council of Candace Rowell on May 15, 2023 at 7:00 pm Eastern on Zoom. You can [register to attend here](#).

Candace Rowell was born and raised in Southeast Georgia. She and her family moved to Atlanta in 2015 and have been attending Virginia Highland Church since 2016. Candace has a background in public health with a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and has worked in community health development globally since 2010. Candace graduated with a Master's in Divinity degree from Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, in 2021 and has been working in hospital chaplaincy since. In the Summer of 2023, Candace will join the Virginia Highland Church staff as a part-time Pastor of Faith Formation and will be working as a part-time staff chaplain at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta.



Candace is dedicated to creating diverse and inclusive micro and macro spaces of belonging and community. As a hospital chaplain and as a church minister, Candace embraces an embodied spirituality of questions and exploration. Her areas of emphasis include trauma-informed care, spiritual trauma care, crisis care, mindfulness and embodiment, proclamation, justice and advocacy, and community building.

Family: Candace's wife Nora is an amazing leader and public health practitioner who, through her work at Banyan Communications, helps create and deliver accessible public health messaging. In 2020 Candace and Nora adopted their son Keith who is currently ten years old, loves sports, music, and helping. Candace and Nora remain open to growing their family through adoption.



Celebrating the Installation of Laura Robinson at Peace Church, Clemson

On Sunday, April 30 we celebrated the installation of Rev. Laura Robinson as pastor of Peace Church in Clemson.

Laura comes from Seattle, WA, and was born and raised in the United Church of Christ. She has an M.Div from Candler School of Theology and was ordained in 2018. She's served churches in Des Moines, IA, and White Salmon, WA, and began her current pastorate at Peace Church in Clemson, SC in August 2021. She also serves as the Coordinating Director of Frontline Faith (the UCC's online learning platform) for Convergence. She's passionate about nurturing an embodied faith that leads toward collective healing and liberation for all of creation.

Laura is a queer, cis-woman living in Greenville, SC with her partner Noah, their housemate Oliver, and a dynamic dog and cat duo, Georgie and Odin. She dreams of growing at least some of her own food, making friends with the trees in her neighborhood, and writing her own book someday..



Prayer List

We are continuing the process of praying for authorized ministers, congregations, and ministry groups throughout 2023. We encourage you to include these prayer requests in your local church newsletter, share them with your prayer circle, and include them in your own prayers.

Week of May 7

- Phoenix Christian Church; Wildersville, Tennessee
- Jess Cusick

- LaCretia Bellamy
- Marcia Free
- Warner Noles
- Katharine Toledano

Week of May 14

- Circular Congregational UCC; Charleston, South Carolina
- George Bennett
- Matt Frierdich
- James Norris
- J. Richard Woodward

Churches in Transition

First Congregational, Savannah GA; Trinity Congregational, Athens AL; Holy Trinity Community Church, Nashville TN; First United Church, Belvidere TN; Deer Lodge Congregational Church, Deer Lodge TN; Brookemeade Congregational, Nashville TN; Rush Memorial, Atlanta GA; Sandy Creek, Lafayette AL; First Congregational Christian, Montgomery AL; Open Table UCC, Mobile AL; Safe Harbor Family Church, Clinton MS; Howard Congregational, Nashville TN

News from the Wider Church



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST *Service*

Guest Preacher

REV. JOHN DORHAUER

Sermon: My Little Toil of Love

UNITED IN CHRIST'S LOVE, WE SEEK JUSTICE FOR ALL.

First UCC Service in Biloxi since 1974

10 AM • MAY 7, 2023

BACK BAY MISSION
strengthening neighborhoods, seeking justice, transforming lives
100 YEARS SINCE 1922

Service Held at:
Back Bay Mission
1012 Division St.
Biloxi, MS 39530

Cultivating Generous Congregations Seminar: A Pre-Synod Event

The CGC Seminar for pastors and leaders offers an opportunity to explore faithful, practical, and tested ways to promote generosity in our

congregations. Be sure to recruit at least a team of two for this program. Changing the culture of your congregation requires more than one dedicated leader.

This pre-Synod seminar will be held in person on June 29th at First Congregational Church (7171 N Pennsylvania St, Indianapolis, IN 46240) from 9 am – 5 pm with lunch provided and on June 30th from 9 am-Noon.

An online session will be held on June 7th from 6pm - 7:30pm CT.

The registration fee is \$300 (per team of two) and \$150 for each additional team member. Individuals without a team may register for \$200. Click here to register: <https://cvent.me/VdxAQm>

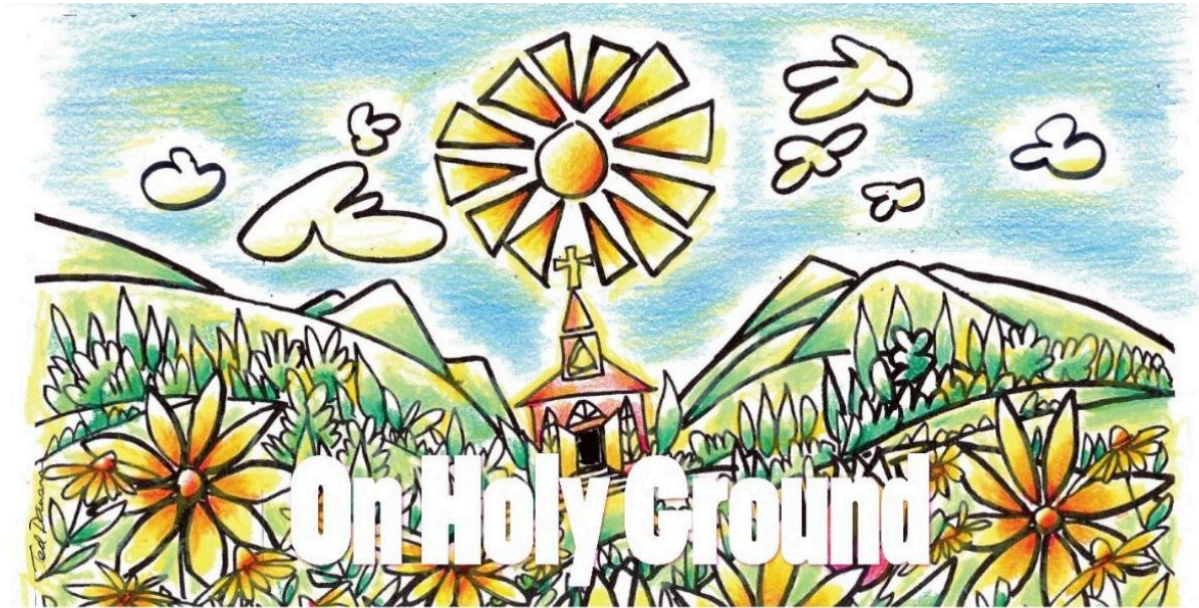
Contact Andrew Warner at warnera@ucc.org for any questions about the event.

UCC Forms New Credit Union

Generations United Federal Credit Union (Generations), a newly-formed financial ministry of the United Church of Christ (UCC), has been granted a federal charter and Share Insurance Fund participation by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA), effective April 21, 2023.

“Generations United Federal Credit Union will establish an intersection of faith and financial stability for members of the United Church of Christ,” said NCUA Chairman Todd M. Harper. “Generations United is committed to strengthening its community of faith through tailored, affordable financial products and services to better ensure that community’s vibrancy. Congratulations to everyone involved in making this new credit union a reality.”

Generations will serve employees and members of the UCC and its related entities, including those with which the denomination is in partnership and full communion. [Read more on the Pension Board website.](#) [Read the FAQ.](#)



Strengthen the Church Offering 2023

The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Most congregations will receive the STC offering on Pentecost Sunday, May 28, 2023.

Resources for this year's Strengthen the Church offering are available at United Church the United Church Resources website, <https://uccresources.com>. You can also contact Southeast Conference staff for more information.

Trainings, Conferences & Events



Retired Ministers Healthy Boundary Training
June 2, 2023, 9:15 am-12:30 pm ET
Kirkwood United Church of Christ

This training, taught by Rev. Char Burch, is for retired ministers only. This course fulfills the Boundary Training Requirements to maintain standing. This particular training will be offered onsite in conjunction with Annual Meeting. A sandwich lunch will be provided at the end of the class, and it will finish in time for the start of the Annual Meeting. [Register here.](#)
(We will be offering another training online later in the year.)



PATHWAYS
THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

PATHWAYS Theological Education, Inc. is a 501c3 program that grew from a program of the Southeast Conference UCC. It remains affiliated with the Southeast Conference. The program offers a full menu of courses for those seeking authorized ministry, for those wanting continuing education, and for those looking for a progressive theology, ethics, or practical church course. The courses are asynchronous, geographically unbound, affordable, and aligned with the UCC Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers. Please be in touch with any questions. You may apply online at pathwaystheological.org.

Supervised Ministry Program

PATHWAYS offers a six-course series in Supervised Ministry. The participant finds a ministry site and supervisor. The supervisor oversees the participant's internship as the participant takes the facilitated asynchronous online courses. There is a four-week introduction to supervised ministry followed by six 9-week courses. The titles and schedule of courses are listed below:

- Intro to Supervised Ministry (June 3- June30, 2023)
- Supervised Ministry I Entering a Place of Ministry (July 10 - Sept 17, 2023)
- Supervised Ministry II The Transformative Context of Pastoral Care (Oct 2 – Dec 17, 2023)
- Supervised Ministry III The Practice of Worship Leadership (Jan 8 - Mar 10, 2024)
- Supervised Ministry IV Faith Formation in the Parish (April 8- June 9, 2024)
- Supervised Ministry V Leadership in the Midst of Change (July 8 - Sept 15, 2024)
- Supervised Ministry VI Leaving a Place of Ministry (Oct 1 - Dec 17, 2024)

Six-Week Course Schedule through the Early Fall 2023

Summer I: Courses Begin May 17, 2023

- [TH10608 Ethics and a Life of Meaning](#) (6-weeks) (May 17-Jun 27)
- [BF20604 New Testament Hermeneutics](#) (6-weeks) (May 17-Jun 27)
- [MP20611 Preaching for Special Occasions](#) (6-weeks) (May 17-Jun 27)
- [HT21206 UCC History & Polity](#) (12-weeks) (May 17 – Aug 8)
- [TH30608 Theology of Gender and Sexuality](#) (6-weeks) (May 17-Jun27)
- [MP10607 Faith Formation \(Children, Youth, Adults\)](#) (6-weeks) (May 17-Jun27)
- [MP20601 Introduction to Spiritual Health](#) (Pastoral Care) (6-weeks) (May 17-Jun27)

Summer II: Courses Begin July 5, 2023

- [HT10608 Pluralism and Religion in North America](#) (6-weeks) (July 5-Aug 15)
- [TH10610 Living the Heart of Progressive Christian Theology](#) (6-weeks) (July 5- Aug 15)
- [BF20602 Old Testament Hermeneutics](#) (6-weeks) (July 5- Aug 15)
- [MP30601 Congregational Ministry and the Future Church](#) (6-weeks)

- (July 5- Aug 15)
- [MP30604 Contemporary Homiletics](#) (6-weeks) (July 5- Aug15)

Fall I: Courses Begin August 21, 2023

- [TH10603 Variety of Belief within Christianity Today](#) (6-weeks) (Aug 21- Sept30)
- [MP10605 Spiritual Care of Self and Others](#) (6-weeks) (Aug 21 – Sept 30)
- [MP20603 Small Church Administration](#) (6-weeks) (Aug 21 – Sept 30)
- [TH30607 Contextual Theology](#) (6-weeks) (Aug21 – Sept 30)
- [HT21206 UCC History & Polity](#) (12-weeks) (Sept 6 – Dec 5)

ACPE-certified Community-Centered Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)

PATHWAYS will offer a 24-week ACPE-certified CPE course in the Fall 2023. Applications are due by mid-August for a November 2023 course. The course originates with the Sankofa CPE Center but you apply through PATHWAYS. From the website: "Learners can choose diverse learning settings including social justice/activism venues to meet their clinical hours. Digital ministry can also be a focus including tele-chaplaincy and online worship. This 24 week program.

Conference Calendar

May 2 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EDT

[Clergy Conversations via Zoom](#)

May 7 @ 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm CDT

[Installation of Rev. Joylynn Graham at Pleasant Hill Community Church](#)

May 9 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EDT

[Clergy Conversations via Zoom](#)

May 11 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm EDT

[Board of Directors Meeting](#)

May 15 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm EDT

[Ecclesiastical Council for Candace Rowell](#)

May 16 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EDT

[Clergy Conversations via Zoom](#)

May 18 @ 1:00 pm - 1:30 pm EDT

[Live Harp Meditations for Ministers](#)

May 18 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm EDT

[Commission on Ministry Meeting](#)

May 23 @ 9:30 am - 11:00 am EDT

[Zoom Conversation for Specialized Ministers](#)

May 23 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EDT

[Clergy Conversations via Zoom](#)

June 2 - June 3

[SEC UCC Annual Meeting](#)

View the full calendar of events online: <https://www.secucc.org/events/>

Contact Us

Conference Minister: **Rev. Kim Wood**; kwood@secucc.org

Assoc. Conf. Minister: **Rev. Heather Fosburgh**; hfosburgh@secucc.org

Generosity Coordinator: **Min. Carrole Moss**; cmoss@secucc.org

Director of Communications: **Don Harris**; dharris@secucc.org

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